

Congress Points NASA Away From *Discovery* In 2026 Budget

January 2026

KeepTheShuttle is pleased by the results of the FY2026 budget process, and is grateful to our allies in the House and Senate for their support over the last year. While [H.R. 6938](#), which will fund both NASA's and the Smithsonian's 2026 budgets, does not block the original \$85 million authorized by the OBBBA, no additional funding for the spacecraft relocation was made by Congress. This is despite Congress and the public's full awareness that carving up and moving the Space Shuttle *Discovery* would, [at minimum, cost between \\$120M and \\$150M](#), as jointly estimated by NASA and the Smithsonian.

Congress's intent is clear - NASA should comply with the OBBBA and transfer a spacecraft to Space Center Houston, but not engage in the uniquely expensive and destructive process that moving *Discovery* would require. NASA appears ready and willing to follow Congress's guidance, as evidenced by Administrator Isaacman's [recent statement](#) that the spacecraft relocation would be guided by "the budget dollars that we have available and, of course, most importantly ensuring the safety of the vehicle". The Administrator then suggested that one of the upcoming Artemis program capsules could be transferred to Space Center Houston, a proposal that would be within the budget set by Congress and logistically simple.

While the KeepTheShuttle team is pleased by these recent developments, we recognize that the fight to protect *Discovery* and the Smithsonian is not over. NASA has not officially decided which spacecraft will be transferred to Houston and the relocation still has another 12 months to be completed, per the OBBBA. Furthermore, one of the largest proponents of moving *Discovery*, Sen. John Cornyn, remarked on January 15th that "[we are not giving up and we are making good progress](#)" in the effort to take the shuttle to Houston. We will closely monitor new legislation in Congress - including a likely 2026 budget reconciliation bill similar to the OBBBA - and continue to work with allies at the federal, state and local level to ensure that *Discovery* is kept intact and at the Smithsonian.

Contact: For background materials, expert introductions, and other information, please reach out to KeepTheShuttle at info@keeptheshuttle.org

COME AND TAKE IT